

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application.

***Status of the Claims***

No claims are being amended, added or canceled. Thus, a listing of the claims is not needed.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 17-19 are withdrawn from consideration.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the only rejection and allow the currently pending claims.

***Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)***

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kubo *et al.* (WO 03/035638 or corresponding CAPLUS Abstract 138:353990 (2003)) (see pages 2-3 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants herein enclose the certified English language translation of the international application (PCT/JP02/10937, filed October 22, 2002) related to the present application. Thus, Applicants can now rely on the priority benefit of the earlier application and thus overcome this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

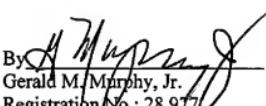
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: MAY 22 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: English language translation PCT/JP02/10937 filed October 22, 2002